

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image-forming device comprising:

a device-information-holding module which holds
inherent device information including the control
5 information to be possessed by the image-forming
device;

a condition-setting module which sets a reference
value to specific device information in the above
device information as a condition;

10 a character-data-generating module which fetches
the device information from the device-information-
holding module, determining whether the device
information meets the condition set by the condition-
setting module, adding predetermined color information
15 to the device information in accordance with the
determination result, and converting the device
information added with the predetermined color
information into character-string data;

an image-data-generating module which converts the
20 character-string data converted by the character-data-
generating module into character-image data;

an image-data-storing module which stores the
character-image data converted by the image-data-
generating module; and

25 an image-forming module which reads the character-
image data from the image-data-storing module and
forming an image based on the character-image data on

an image-recording medium,

wherein the image-forming module has a function
for coloring and character-modifying the specific
device information under a specific condition and
5 printing out the information.

2. An image-forming device according to claim 1,
further comprising a user interface which displays a
condition to be set by the condition-setting module.

3. An image-forming device according to claim 1,
10 wherein the image-forming module colors or modifies
the character-image data to print out the data in
accordance with a preset condition when printing out
the device information.

4. An image-forming device according to claim 1,
15 wherein the image-data-generating module has a function
for generating character-image data by determining
whether an item designated by a user meets a condition
designated by the user when generating a number-of-
sheets-used-information list or report every user
20 group and coloring the data with a color designated
by the user or character-modifying the data by
a modification method designated by the user when the
item meets the condition, and

the image-forming module has a function for
25 printing out character-image data by coloring the
data with the color generated by the image-data-
generating module and designated by the user or

character-modifying the data by a modification method designated by the user.

5 5. An image-forming device according to claim 1, wherein the image-data-generating module has a function for generating character-image data by applying respectively-inherent character modification to the specific device information under a plurality of conditions and printing out the character-image data by applying respectively-inherent character modification
10 to the specific device information generated by the image-data-generating module under a plurality of conditions.

 6. An image-forming device according to claim 1, wherein the image-forming module has a function for
15 stepwise coloring each of the character-image data values with an inherent color about one item and printing out the data correspondingly to a preset number of conditions when printing out the device information.

20 7. An image-forming device according to claim 1, wherein the image-data-generating module has a function for determining whether to meet any stage of a plurality of conditions designated by a user about one item designated by the user when generating a number-
25 of-sheet-used-information list or report every user group and generating character-image data by coloring the data with a color designated by the user in

accordance with a stage meeting one of the conditions,
and

the image-forming module has a function for
printing out the character-image data by coloring the
data with a color designated by the user in accordance
5 with a stage meeting one of the conditions.

8. An image-forming device comprising:

device-information-holding means for holding
inherent device information including control
10 information to be possessed by the image-forming
device;

condition-setting means for setting the reference
value of specific device information in the above
device information as a condition;

15 character-data-generation means for fetching the
device information from the device-information-holding
means, determining whether the device information meets
the condition set by the condition-setting means,
adding predetermined color information to the device
20 information in accordance with the determination
result, and converting the device information including
the predetermined color information into character-
string data;

image-data-generating means for converting the
25 character-string data converted by the character-data-
generating means into character-image data;

image-data-storing means for storing

the character-image data converted by the
image-data-generating means; and

image-forming means for reading the character-
image data from the image-data-storing means and
5 forming an image based on the character-image data on
an image-recording medium,

wherein the image-forming means has a function
for printing out the specific device information by
coloring or character-modifying the information under
10 a specific condition.

9. An image-forming device according to claim 8,
further comprising a user interface for displaying
a condition to be set by the condition-setting module.

10. An image-forming device according to claim 8,
15 wherein the image-forming means has a function for
printing out the above character-image data by coloring
or modifying the data in accordance with preset
conditions when printing out the above device
information.

20 11. An image-forming device according to claim 8,
wherein the image-data-generating means has a function
for determining whether an item designated by a user
meets a condition designated by the user when
generating a number-of-sheets-used-information list or
25 report every user group and when the item meets the
condition, generating character-image data by coloring
the item with a color designated by the user or

applying character-string modification to the item in accordance with a modification method designated by the user, and

the image-forming means image-forming means has
 5 a function for printing out the character-image data generated by the image-data-generating means by coloring the character-image data with a color designated by the user or applying character-string modification to the data in accordance with
 10 a modification method designated by the user.

12. An image-forming device according to claim 8, wherein the image-data-generating means has a function for generating character-image data by applying respectively-inherent character modification to the
 15 specific device information under a plurality of conditions, and

the image-forming means has a function for printing out character-image data by applying respectively-inherent character modification to the
 20 specific device information generated by the image-data-generating means under a plurality of conditions.

13. An image-forming device according to claim 8, wherein the image-forming means has a function for printing out the device information by stepwise
 25 coloring the character-image data with a respectively-inherent color in accordance with a plurality of preset conditions about one item.

14. An image-forming device according to claim 8,
 wherein the image-data-generating means has a function
 for determining whether to meet any stage of a
 plurality of conditions designated by a user about one
 5 item designated by the user when generating a number-
 of-sheet-used-information list or report every user
 group and generating character-image data by coloring
 the data with a color designated by the user in
 accordance with a stage meeting one of the conditions,
 10 and

the image-forming means has a function for
 printing out the character-image data by coloring the
 data with a color designated by the user in accordance
 with a stage meeting one of the conditions.

15 15. A method for controlling an image-forming
 device, comprising:

holding inherent device information including
 the control information to be possessed by the
 image-forming device;

20 setting a reference value to specific device
 information of the above device information as
 a condition;

fetching the device information, determining
 whether the device information meets the above
 25 condition, adding predetermined color information
 to the device information in accordance with the
 determination result, and converting the device

information including the predetermined color
information into character-string data;

converting the character-string data into
character-image data;

5 storing the character-image data in a memory; and
reading character-image data from the memory and
forming an image based on the character-image data on
an image-recording medium,

wherein the image formation is performed by
10 applying coloring or character modification to the
specific device information under a specific condition
and printing out data.

16. A method for controlling an image-forming
device according to claim 15, wherein the image
15 formation is performed by printing out the character-
image data by coloring or modifying the data in
accordance with a preset condition when printing out
the device information.

17. A method for controlling an image-forming
20 device according to claim 15, wherein the image-data
generation is performed by determining whether an item
designated by a user meets a condition designated by
the user when generating a number-of-sheets-used-
information list or report every user group, and
25 generating character-image data by coloring the data
with a color designated by the user or applying
character-string modification to the data in accordance

- 65 -

with a modification method designated by the user when meeting the condition, and

the image formation is performed by printing out character-image data generated by coloring the data with a color designated by the user or applying character-string modification to the data by a modification method designated by the user.

18. A method for controlling an image-forming device according to claim 15, wherein the image-data generation is performed by generating character-image data by applying respectively-inherent character modification to the specific device information under a plurality of conditions, and

the image formation is performed by printing
15 out character-image data generated by applying
respectively-inherent character modification to the
specific device information under a plurality of
conditions.

19. A method for controlling an image-forming
20 device according to claim 15, wherein the image
formation is performed by printing out the character-
image data by stepwise coloring the data with
a respectively-inherent color in accordance with
a plurality of preset conditions.

25 20. A method for controlling an image-forming
device according to claim 15, wherein the image-data
generation is performed by determining whether to meet

any stage of a plurality of conditions designated by a user about an item designated by the user when generating a number-of-sheets-used-information list or report every user group and generates character-image data by coloring the data with a color designated by the user in accordance with a stage meeting one of the conditions, and

the image formation is performed by printing out
the character-image data generated by coloring the data
10 with a color designated by the user in accordance with
a stage meeting one of the above conditions.